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| Review: IslamOverview: For centuries the people of the Arabian Peninsula (part of the Middle East) followed many different religious beliefs and worshipped a variety of gods (polytheism). Because this part of the world was located at the center of important trade routes, interaction between people of different cultures was common. As such, people would discuss and share ideas relating to a number of issues. One such key trading point was the city of Mecca. Here there lived a man called Muhammad (born A.D. 570). Muhammad was a very religious man. Muhammad received a message from God telling him to teach people that there is only one god (Allah) and that only Allah should be worshipped. This monotheistic principle was central to a new religion known as Islam. Those who followed its doctrine (beliefs) are called Muslims.Questions to think about: What are the central beliefs of Islam?  Why have differences in beliefs developed within the Islamic faith?  Why did Islam spread so widely?  What advances were achieved throughout the ‘Golden Age’ of Islam and how do they continue to affect us today? |  | Key Terms / Vocabulary Bedouins  Caravan  Mecca  Ka’aba – (idols)  Qur’an – Arabic  Allah  Muhammad – A.D. 570  Khadijah  Muslim  Islam – “submission to the will of Allah”  Monotheism  The Hijrah – A.D. 622 – Yathrib (Medina)  The Five Pillars – (Faith, Prayer, Alms, Fasting, Pilgrimage)  People of the Book  Sunna  Shari’a  Caliph  Jihad  The final prophet  Sunni – Shi’a Split  Baghdad |